

March 26, 1969

Dear George:

Many thanks for your letter of the 14th, and deep apologies for my tardy reply.

I would very much like to attend the conference, and am honored by your invitation to speak. I accept with pleasure, but must enter the caveat that if some unforeseen Presidential business comes up, I may have to beg off at the last minute. I will do my best to see that this doesn't happen. If, with this qualification, you still want to invite me, I accept with pleasure.

From my own point of view, June 6 is the preferable date.

Must I speak on East-West relations, or may I discuss whatever seems most acute at the moment? Of course, it would be hard to leave out U.S. -Soviet relations. I would appreciate any thoughts you might have on what more specific focus you might want in the speech.

I appreciate your very generous personal note and can assure you that your invitation was no imposition. I look forward to seeing you soon.

With warm regards,


Henry A. Kissinger

Mr. George S. Franklin, Jr.
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P.S. We have since talked but I thought you might
like this for your records.
LSE:mz

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Dear Mr. Spivak:

I very much appreciate your thoughtful invitation to appear on MEET THE PRESS, and deeply regret that I must decline.

It is my strong belief that I can best serve the President if I -- to the extent I can -- stay out of the public eye. My role is that of personal advisor to the President and, as such, I feel I should avoid acting as a spokesman for the Administration. That role properly lies with the President, the Secretary of State, and other Cabinet members.

I hope you will understand my reasons for declining your gracious invitation. It is an honor which -- under other circumstances -- I would readily accept.

With warm regards,

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Henry A. Kissinger

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LSE:mz